

A HEADLONG PLUNGE.

RECORDED NORMS EXPERIENCE

WITH TURKEYS.

A Somewhat Expensive Search For

Grasshoppers on Table

Mountain.

"Talking about turkeys," remarked County Recorder Smith, Norris yesterday, "I have just finished a story which has the foolishness of birds for its subject. I remember an incident which happened just twenty-one years ago this month, and I shall never forget it. I made up my mind then that of all the fables in the world, turkeys are entitled to the medal. It was a funny incident, but was a rather expensive one to me, and to Old Man Jones who was called on to help foot the loss because he owned half the turkeys."

"I will tell you how it happened. We had gone into the turkey business, and heavily and had bought up all we could get between Fresno river and Visalia, and had between 2000 and 3000 in one band. We herded them like sheep, driving them from place to place, and about midday and grasshoppers, and now and then a snubbed field. But that was back in the early seventies, and wheat fields were pretty scarce. So we drove the turkeys to the foothills in October, 1873, to feed them on acorns and mountain berries, or anything that could be picked up."

"Old Man Jones, while scouting around one day discovered that Table Mountain was covered with grasshoppers, and he said we would do well to take the turkeys up there and let them forage on the hoppers; and I took them. We found the whole face of the earth covered with grasshoppers, and we spread the turkeys out in a line from one side of the flat top of the mountain to the other, and they made a clean sweep as they went, and devoured about twenty acres of the insects a day and kept it up for more than two weeks, and then the crisis came."

"We had by this time worked up close to the north end of the mountain next to the San Joaquin river. The mountain here ends in a precipitous cliff down a couple of thousand feet, and the river winds like a thread at the base. It will make any man dizzy to look down. The summit of the mountain here narrows to a sharp point, and overhanging the San Joaquin. The turkeys approached nearer and nearer to this place, driving vast swarms of grasshoppers before them, and we were elated to think that the insects could not escape much longer, but must soon be covered and be eaten by the thousands of turkeys."

"About 2 o'clock in the afternoon they came to a focus. The grasshoppers for several days came to the edge of the precipice, and seeing the flock closing in upon them, over they went in a vast swarm."

"What do you think the turkeys did? Right over that cliff, 2000 feet straight down, they went. We tried to stop them, but every last turkey went over the cliff."

"Well, it was a sight to behold, and although it was twenty-one years ago, I remember it as vividly as if I were taking place before my eyes. A turkey is a pretty good flyer when he has a chance, but these were so thick that they could not spread their wings, and down they went like lumps of lead, and when they struck the rock near the river the sound was almost beyond belief. It seemed as if the mountain had toppled over. The turkeys were crushed to the job of course, and the feathers that filled the air were like a black cloud. In fact, Old Man Jones who was then three miles away, near Temperance Flat, saw the cloud of feathers and thought a thunder cloud was hanging against the face of Table Mountain. He was the more inclined to believe that such was the case, because the sound made by the turkeys striking the bottom of the canon was like thunder."

"Not quite all the turkeys perished in the catastrophe," continued Recorder Norris. "At first sight it looked as if all had gone down together, and so far as saving any of them, they might as well have all landed in one heap. But several hundred of them escaped in getting their wings spread, and away they sailed toward the plains, and were scattered over ten counties more or less. Old Jones was lost."

West Side Irrigation.

From the Lamoine Leader.

It is currently reported that the company or syndicate represented by Reed & Baker of Traver say they are now prepared to take hold of and push to completion the proposed Sunset irrigation works. Mr. Baker was over this week business conference with the other parties to the deal. The water right, known as the West Side, at heart, would be placed and delighted to see any practical scheme pushed through that would secure a sufficient supply of water within a reasonable time.

December Weather.

Captain Williams of the weather bureau here has prepared a summary of the December weather for the past seven years, and the average may be of interest, inasmuch as the weather here is here. The mean temperature is 47, highest 70, lowest 27; average date of first killing frost, December 6th; average rainfall, 2.43 inches; least rainfall, 1887, 1.16 inches; greatest, 1891, 3.99 inches.

ROBERT DOWNING.

The Great Actor Will Appear at the

Barton Monday.

Robert Downing, the favorite American tragedian, will appear at the Barton opera house next Monday evening. Mr. Downing will bring with him the same powerful company as has been supporting him in his successful engagements in San Francisco, which has been generally praised as the best organization carried by any artist devoting himself exclusively to the serious drama. Mr. Downing, in various interviews and articles written for the press, has maintained that no satisfactory performance of tragedy can be secured where there is an unseasonable contrast between the ability of the star and the supporting cast, so that to secure a purpose of their own must be excellence in all roles. His own company has always been organized in accordance with this belief, and as he has felt himself growing in power and ability to inspire his audience he has surrounded himself with better support. This season he has the leading lady who has shared honors with him for several years, and who has grown with his growth, and made his performance beautiful by her land and graceful presence and finished work, Eugene Blair. In the mounting of his plays, the scenery and costumes, Mr. Downing spares no expense. The scenery is as beautiful as the acting, and has been aimed at in both. For the engagement at the Barton in this city "The Gladiator" has been selected, which will be given with all of the magnificent stage effects and costumes that are used in this grand production in San Francisco during the past two weeks.

Wanted—Agents to represent the old

National Life Insurance Co., Montpelier,

Vt. For further information address

G. M. Stimp, General Agent, 220

St. Crocker building, San Francisco,

Cal.

MIGRATION OF BIRDS.

Migratory Instinct That Leads Them An-

nually Through Vast Distances.

The instinct which guides a young

bird, without other experience or the

help of its parents, across vast expanse

of land and water to the proper quarters

of its species has been described by the

great naturalist and sage of modern

science as "the unknown power." While

the necessity of obtaining an adequate

amount of food is undoubtedly an im-

portant factor in the cause of migration,

it can only have a partial operation, in-

asmuch as the spring journey north-

ward is commenced from a country

teeming in many cases with desirable

supplies. Another inexplicable phenom-

enon, which proves conclusively that

neither food supplies nor climatic dif-

ficulties create the impulse for change, is

furnished by the cross migration which

takes on regularly during the autumn be-

tween this country and the continent

among birds of the same species.

Some idea of the great power under-

lying the impulse to migrate may be

gained when it is considered that sev-

eral birds are known to perish rather

than forsake their young in a fire, yet

they will leave their second annual

brood in obedience to this mysterious

instinct. The force that is stronger than

the devotion of motherhood must indeed

be great! There is no evidence to prove

that any of our summer visitors breed

in their winter quarters with the excep-

tion of the sand martin, so that doubt-

less the great desire to perpetuate the

species governs the flight north. This

theory is based upon the fact that, while

the flight south is led by young birds of

the year, the journey north in the spring

is led by old ones that have already

known the joys and cares of parenthood.

Marked swaths have been known to

build in the same chimney seven years

in succession. Birds have a marvelous

faculty for calculating time, and are pro-

ved by the fact that some species arrive

and take their departure to a day, and

this without reference to the weather,

although it has been ascertained that

they dislike a following wind as much

as a head wind, on account of the dis-

arrangement it causes among their fly-

ing and steering feathers. Why the

kingaloe sometimes judges singly

at others in flocks is as inexplicable as

the local limitations of the nightingale.

The latter bird does not extend its

range further west than the valley of

Evo nor much farther north than York.

Birds are wonderfully conservative in

their migratory routes, the quail pur-

suing the same course today as when

they "came up and covered the camp

of the Israelites. These great aerial

highways are neither constant nor

the same from year to year, and the

birds to and from their winter re-

sidences, according to man's judgment, but

there is strong geological authority for

supposing that their far distant pro-

genitors flew over narrow necks of land

where water now exists. In clear weath-

er birds perform their migratory flights

at immense altitudes, but in dull weath-

er, when neither moon nor star is vis-

ible, they fly low, and their ranks are

thinned by numerous losses.—London

Spectator.

DOWNED BY THE DUKE.

When the Duke of Marlborough visited

America, he stopped at one of New

York's swell hotels. On entering the

dining room one evening, he was seated

at a table occupied by half a dozen

Harvard students. Calling the waiter,

the duke asked for a menu card and

exclaimed on looking it over: "Is that

all? Vile—simply vile! Wine list,

waiter." After scanning the wine list

he made the same remark in louder

tones, attracting the attention of the

students, one of whom immediately

called, "Waiter, wine!" and on glance-

ing at the card remarked: "Is that all?

Vile—simply vile!" Another called for

the wine list, looked it over, and with

disgust in every word, unheeded: "Is

that all? Vile—simply vile!" The duke

turned angrily in his chair, and ad-

dressing the students in haughty tones

said, "Are you aware, gentlemen, that

you are mocking the Duke of Marlbor-

ough?" The six Harvard students look-

ed at each other in undisguised disap-

pointment, exclaiming in chorus: "Is

that all? Vile—simply vile!" while

the room rang with laughter.—San

Francisco Argonaut.

A SOLUTION.

Squire Reagan once heard a case in

which there were no witnesses, and the

statute of limitations and defendant

were all the court had to decide by.

Of course the plaintiff swore to facts

that were directly contradicted by the

testimony of the defendant. Here was a

dilemma, but the judge was equal to

the emergency.

"Gentlemen," said he, "perjury is a

very heinous offense, and should never

be imputed to any man unless for good

and substantial reasons. Now, in this

case the court occupies the position of

both judge and jury—judges to the law

to the case and jury as to the fact and

the preponderance of the evidence. Therefore, as jury, the court, well know-

ing the law bearing on the case, finds

itself unable to agree, and its judge de-

clares it a mistrial, and, again, as judge

grants a new trial before a jury in this

court at the next term of said court,

which now stands adjourned."—Ar-

izona Journal.

THE TURKS AND ARMENIANS.

Owing to the news received from Lon-

don of the massacre of 22,000 of their

countrymen in Armenia by the Turks,

the Armenians of Fresno held a meet-

ing yesterday at their hall on F street,

between Alameda and Los Angeles

streets, to pay a fitting tribute to the

memory of those who have been thus

cruelly deprived of life by the brutal

Turks. The hall, which is a very neat

and attractive building, was appropri-

ately draped in mourning.

Resolved, That we, the Armenians of

Fresno, do hereby express our deep sor-

row for the awful fate which so many of

our countrymen, their wives and chil-

dren have met at the hands of the

treacherous and brutal Turks, and also

to give expression to our abhorrence of a

deed which must excite the fairest sym-

pathy and bring forth sentiments of

horror from the entire Christian world.

Resolved, That we do hereby recom-

mend that protests be sent to the

Christian powers of Europe and to the

United States asking for intervention

in behalf of our fellow countrymen,

and being persecuted by the govern-

ment of Turkey.

Resolved, That we close our respective

places of business as a tribute of respect

to the dead and of sympathy for the

living.

"Come In!" Jolly

And have some of these fine delicacies

and a glass of Extra Pale at the Old

Palm Garden.

F. A. Foin has had practical experi-

ence in his business since 1849, and if

you have had trouble in getting good

work done in any kind of plumbing,

fact, has been aimed at in both. For

the engagement at the Barton in this

city "The Gladiator" has been selected,

which will be given with all of the mag-

nificent stage effects and costumes that

are used in this grand production in

San Francisco during the past two

weeks.

Wanted—Agents to represent the old

National Life Insurance Co., Montpelier,

Vt. For further information address

G. M. Stimp, General Agent, 220

St. Crocker building, San Francisco,

Cal.

Driers made at Donahoo, Emmons & Co.

Highest market price paid for wool,

hogs, sheep and fat cattle at Farmers'

warehouse, Fresno. M. W. Muller and

L. J. Miller.

Moline plows and extras at Barrett,

Hicks & Co's.

Awarded

Highest Honors—World's Fair.

"DR."

PRICES

CREAM

BAKING

POWDER

MOST PERFECT MADE.

A pure Grape Cream of Tartar Powder. Free

from Ammonia, Alum or any other adulterant.

40 YEARS THE STANDARD.

PERSONAL.

Dr. Heilly has returned to Fresno.

F. H. Hanson is here from Sanger.

J. L. Gilbert was up from Selma yester-

day.

D. W. Lewis came over yesterday from

Sanger.

James Madison has returned to San

Francisco.

J. P. Meix went to Santa Barbara

last evening.

G. H. Eggers went to the Bay City

this morning.

W. S. Wood went to San Francisco

this morning.

E. C. Wagner of Stockton is registered

at the Hughes.

C. R. Smith is down from Pine Ridge

on a short visit.

Samuel M. Tolana was here from Ma-

dara last night.

G. H. Moller has gone to San Fran-

cisco on business.

C. H. Cain of Visalia is spending a

short time in Fresno.

E. J. Pinkham left the Hughes, regis-

tered from Visalia.

Garner L. O. Stephens has been called

to Woodland on business.

A. A. Jacob is among the San Fran-

ciscans enjoying in Fresno.

C. J. Clark came up yesterday on a

business trip from Kingsburg.

Ferdinand Ken